

ABSTRACT

The present invention teaches a universal STB operative to prevent unauthorized access to digital broadcast data including: a databus; a first communication device suitable for coupling to a digital broadcast communications medium, the first communication device operable to receive digital broadcast data; memory bi-directionally coupled to the databus, the memory including computer executable instructions for: a). determining whether the STB is authentic or counterfeit; b). performing anti-counterfeit measures upon the STB when the device is determined to be counterfeit; and c). updating a communications protocol of the STB when the STB is determined to be authentic; a digital data decoder bi-directionally coupled to the databus; a central processing unit (CPU) bi-directionally coupled to the databus, the CPU implementing a STB control process controlling the memory, the first communications device and the digital decoder, the STB control process operable to process digital data received at the first communications device.